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191129Z Aug 05

UNCLAS MADRID 002985

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, EB/TPP/ABT - JACK BOBO  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE/SLUTSKY  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE/FAS/ITP FOR WOOLSEY  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE/FAS BSIMMONS  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE/FAS/FAA FOR BLEGGI  
BRUSSELS PASS USEU FOR AG MINCOUNS  
EU POSTS TO AGRICULTURE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [TBIO](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY:CODEX AD HOC TASK FORCE  
ON BIOTECH FOODS

REF: A. (A) AUGUST 12

[1](#)B. 2005 SCHONANDER-BOBO E-MAIL (B) STATE 147159

[1](#)1. Trade policy officer discussed contents of ref B on August 12 with the GOS working-level head of the interministerial working group charged with coordinating Codex issues. His name is Juan Carlos Calvo (Ministry of Health). Tel : 34 - [1](#)9133808883. E-mail: jcalvo@msc.es He will not be attending the meeting in Japan. Maria Dolores Gomez (Ministry of Health; Tel: 34 - 913380836; e-mail: mgomezv@msc.es) and Maria Teresa Calvo (Ministry of Agriculture; Tel: 34 - 913475045; e-mail: tcalvosa@mapya.es) will represent Spain.

[1](#)2. Calvo said that the GOS is going to coordinate its final positions in an inter-ministerial meeting on August 26 in advance of an EU meeting on the subject in Brussels on September 1. He added that the GOS and the EU support our proposal on staples. Moreover, labeling and the environment should be dealt with in other Codex committees or other international bodies as far as the GOS and the EU were concerned. Calvo had no information on GOS views with respect to developing guidance for the food safety assessment of low levels of material derived from transgenic plants.

[1](#)3. Comment: Embassy's sense is that as Health and Agriculture are representing Spain, GOS policies will be science-oriented and pragmatic. However, Spain has a history of not rocking the boat within the EU unless the issue is of great national importance so the EU "consensus" coming out of the September 1 meeting will shape Spain's views. We have little sense for how active Spain will be in the September 1 meeting in Brussels.  
AGUIRRE